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THE YELLOW FEVER COMMISSION

"Editorial"

by N.S. DAVIS.

Journal of the American Medical Association

1886, 6.



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THE JOURNAL

OF THE



American Medical Association.

CONTAINING

THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF ITS PROCEEDINGS,

AND THE

REPORTS AND PAPERS PRESENTED IN THE SEVERAL SECTIONS.

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY N. S. DAVIS, M. D., LL. D.

ASSISTED BY WM. G. EGGLESTON, M. A., M. D.

VOLUME VI.

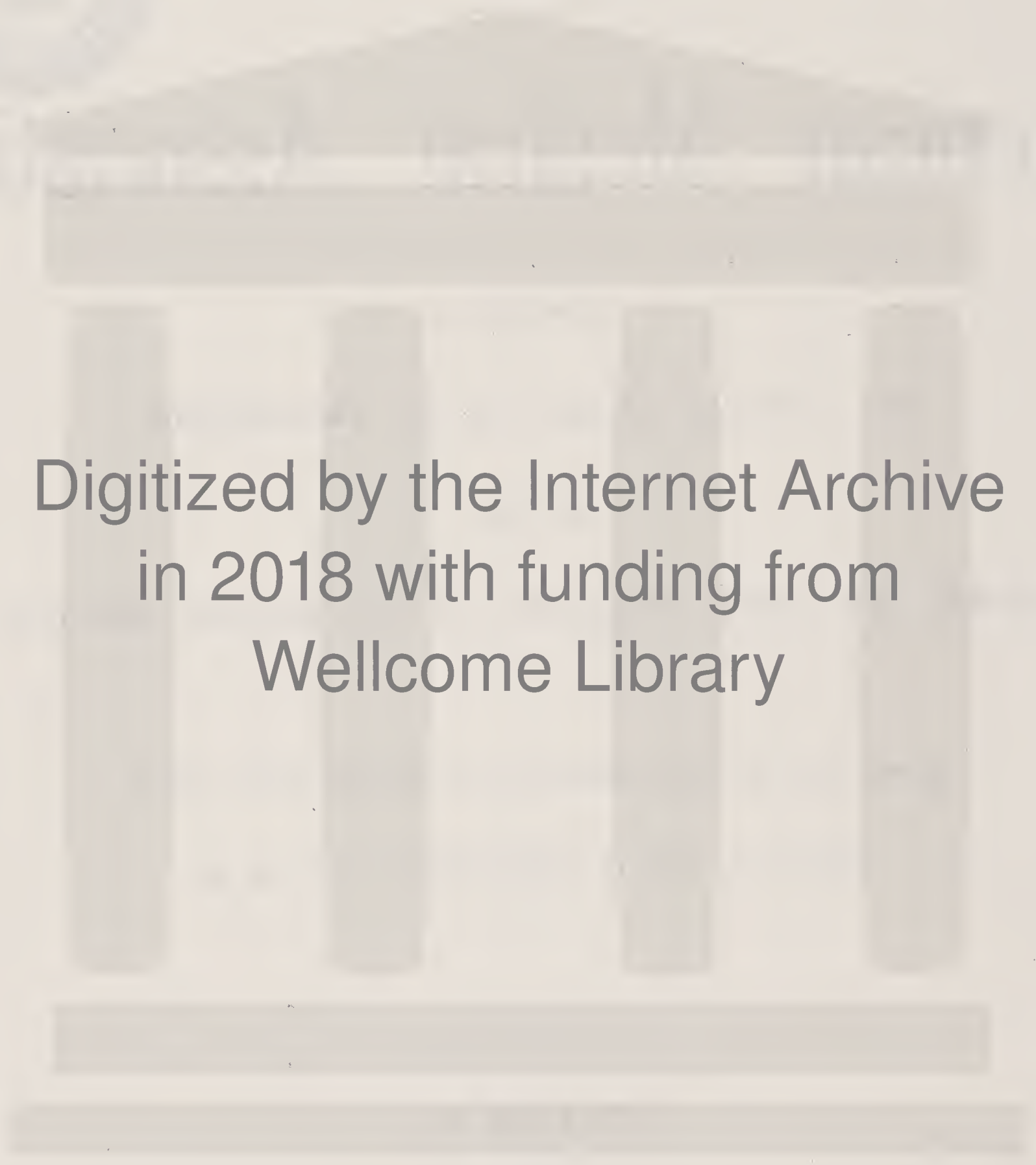
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man; Dr. B. L. Coleman, Lexington, Ky., *Secretary*.

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A member desiring to read a paper before a Section should forward the paper, or its *title and length* (not to exceed twenty minutes in reading), to the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, at least one month before the meeting.—*By-Laws*.

Committee of Arrangements.—Dr. Le Grand Atwood, St. Louis, Missouri, *Chairman*.

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS.

By Dr. Foster Pratt, Mich.—Each Section shall nominate its Chairman and Secretary—all other nominations to be made, as now, by the nominating Committee.

By Dr. I. N. Quimby, N. J.—Create a new Section, to be known as the Section on Medical Jurisprudence.

WM. B. ATKINSON, M.D.,

Permanent Secretary.

1400 Pine St., S. W. cor. Broad, Philadelphia.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE YELLOW FEVER COMMISSION.—The unfriendly attitude of a contemporary towards the proposed "Yellow Fever Commission" has called out an able letter from Dr. Irving A. Watson, of New Hampshire, to Louisiana's distinguished sanitarian, Dr. Joseph Holt. The following extracts are taken from his letter, which is published in the *Sanitary News*, of March 6:

"It was to be expected that hostile influences would spring up where the personal interests of a few were jeopardized, and from some who place selfish motives above moral principles, jealousies before humanitarian philanthropy, and to whom revenge is sweeter than the disenthralment of their own communities from the terrible slaughter of a relentless and uncompromising pestilence. It would not have caused surprise to have found some crabbed medical journal in a state of chronic hostility to advancement in science, opposing the measure, because of its inherent inability to do otherwise; but, for a so-called reputable publication, like the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, to lead the attack in what appears to be an unchivalric and unprofessional manner, a journal having its own

sanctum, as well as the sacred homes of its corps of editors, unfortified against the menacing disaster—disparaging an attempt to battle the hitherto unconquered enemy, is an incongruity of action which, to professional men living beyond the borders of yellow fever invasion, can be looked upon only as being prompted by motives which are not apparent to the public. Its tender regard for the \$30,000 of the funds of the United States against the happiness, comfort and lives of the people of a vast area of this republic is too unreasonable even to credit, and must be received as a flimsy screen to conceal the animus of its opposition. The assertion that the investigations of Freire and Carmona are without scientific value seems to my mind little less than a distortion of facts, and unwarranted without further investigation. Freire's investigations, as recorded in his voluminous illustrated report to the Brazilian government, show an amount of scientific work that places him among the first biologists of the day, and, if his conclusions are correct, as there now appears to be no reason to doubt, crowns him as the greatest living benefactor of the human race. The statistical record of his vaccinations just published (1886), together with the deaths from yellow fever in Rio de Janeiro from January to August last, presents an array of facts that cannot be controverted by any method of argument.

"For a publication, whatever its name or kind, pretending to wear the dress of mediocrity even, to attempt to defeat the investigations by the general government into the means and methods of saving life and of maintaining unbroken, so long as natural law has ordained, the unit of our country's strength and prosperity—the family circle—is, unless some superior plan is offered with an assurance of its adoption and execution, lamentable beyond expression when viewed from the standpoint of human love or moral duty. We, at the North, with our homes safe from this one monster of death, with a patriotic regard for the welfare of every community in this great sisterhood of States, and with hearts tender to the wails of distress which we have too often heard from the sorrowing homes of the sunny South, that have been stricken with this terrible disease, join with you, your associates, and the American Public Health Association, in urging the passage of the bill now before Congress. This measure is supported upon the broad principle of humanity and loyalty to public interests, by men in old New England; but to see opposition to it springing up from men living in a district that has more than once been decimated by the frightful pestilence, is an anomaly which we must believe . . . incompatible with common sense."

ASTLEY COOPER PRIZE.—It is announced that the next triennial prize of £300, under the will of the late Sir Astley P. Cooper, Bart., will be awarded, early in 1889, to the author of the best essay or treatise on "The Origin, Anatomy, Results, and Treatment of Tubercular Diseases of Bones and Joints." The essays shall contain original experiments and observations which shall not have been previously

